Before the Federal Communications Commission Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of

Unlicensed Use of the 6 GHz Band

Expanding Flexible Use of the Mid-Band Spectrum Between 3.7 GHz and 24 GHz

ET Docket No. 18-295 GN Docket No. 17-183

Reply Comments of RigNet Satcom, Inc.

RigNet Satcom, Inc. ("RigNet") submits these comments in response to the above-captioned Notice of Proposed Rulemaking¹ and as a supplement to prior comments submitted on December 10, 2018.

RigNet believes that opening the 6 GHz band to unlicensed use in the Gulf of Mexico would create an unreasonable risk of interference to existing critical communications systems. Therefore, RigNet urges the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") to exclude the Gulf of Mexico from any expanded unlicensed use of 6 GHz. RigNet further urges the FCC to provide greater protections for backhaul systems used to carry traffic from the Gulf of Mexico through the 12-mile coastal zone and onto the beach.

¹ See Unlicensed Use of the 6 GHz Band, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, ET Docket No. 18-295, et al. (October 23, 2018)(hereafter "6 GHz NPRM").

I. Gulf of Mexico Infrastructure

RigNet's operates a WiMax access network in the Gulf of Mexico that spans an area of approximately 24,000 square miles. The backbone to the Wimax network consists of 93 point-to-point 6 GHz microwave links² that interconnect oil and gas platforms in the Gulf of Mexico. RigNet also operates 8 point-to-point beach-crossing links that that traverse uninhabited swamps between Venice, Louisiana and Galveston, Texas. (see Figure 1). Exhibit A shows a larger image of the map.

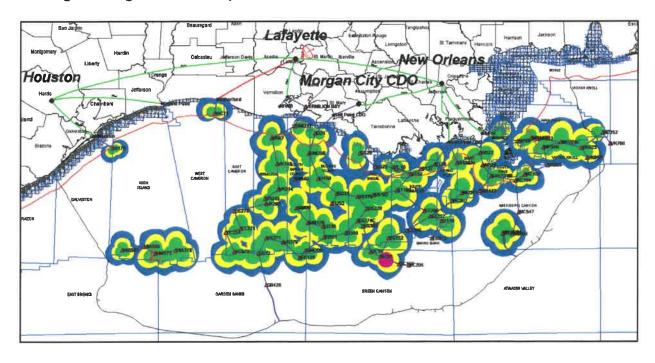


Figure 1. RigNet Wimax access Network operating on point-to-point 6 GHz backbone.

The network supports critical infrastructure in over 300 oil and gas platforms. Some platforms are manned while others unmanned. All platforms

² The vast majority of RigNet point-to-point 6 GHz links operate in the 6.1 and 6.7 GHz bands.

require uninterrupted communication that supports safety, emergency response, security, industrial controls, sensors, and monitoring, among other critical functions. Manned platforms depend on communications to enhance crew safety, sometimes up to 150 personnel per platform. Unmanned platforms must be constantly monitored for safety and security and a break in communications results in an immediate shutdown of production until communications can be restored.

II. Technical Details

The 6 GHz point-to-point paths carry high-capacity channels of 10, 30, and 60MHz with a maximum modulation of 4096QAM. The links interconnect oil and gas platforms using antennas installed on structures whose heights are barely sufficient to clear the first Fresnel zone. Because the transmission is over water, which is a reflecting media, the links are especially susceptible to harmful interference.

Vessels or platforms operating in the proposed unlicensed 6 GHz spectrum would have antenna heights similar to the antenna heights of RigNet's antennas. This means that antennas operating in the proposed unlicensed spectrum would likely be within the main lobe of the antenna pattern of RigNet's antennas. Any antennas operating in the proposed unlicensed spectrum, and within RigNet's line-of-sight, would cause harmful interference to RigNet's licensed links.

III. Calculations

As shown in the link budget calculations in Exhibit B, operation of unlicensed 6 GHz devices, even with a functioning Automatic Frequency Coordination (AFC) in place, would create a substantial link margin decrease which in turn would drastically affect quality of service. That is, link reliability of licensed 6 GHz systems, as well as average throughput, would drop substantially.

The calculations show how a 36 dBm interferer impacts a 6 GHz point-to-point microwave link between two RigNet callsigns: WPTH206 (ST52) and a potential receiver, WPND311 (ST100). These calculations assume that the interferer is located in the line-of-sight between the mentioned locations. The interferer is a 20 MHz carrier next to the RigNet path frequency channel.

Figure 2 below shows the point-to-point link between Gulf of Mexico blocks South Timbalier (ST52) and South Timbalier (ST100) (receiver). For purposes of the calculations, an interferer antenna has been placed at locations 5 miles, 10 miles, and 30 miles from ST100 as shown by black triangles (not to scale). This ST52-ST100 link was designed with a 1024QAM modulation and a 452 Mbps throughput. The link plain fade margin is 30 dB.

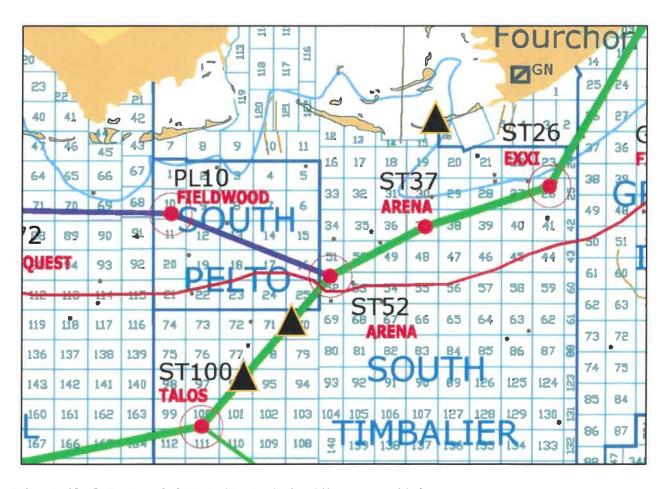


Figure 2. Gulf of Mexico 6 GHz Point-to-Point Microwave Links

If an interferer 6 GHz antenna is placed at 5 miles from ST100, the fade margin drops from 30 dB to 4.13 dB. This leads to a decrease in link reliability from 99.999% to 93.074%. The throughput drops by a factor of 5.3. (See details in Exhibit B)

If the interferer 6 GHz antenna is moved further away, at 10 miles from ST100, the fade margin drops from 30 dB to 12 dB. Consequently, the link availability drops from 99.999% to 98.923%. Also, the throughput drops by a factor of 2.7.

Finally, when the interferer antenna is moved 30 miles from ST100, (this is at the shoreline), there is still a negative impact to ST100. The flat fade margin drops from 30.0 dB to 27.39 dB and the availability drops from 99.999% to 99.996%.

These degradations are predictable and unacceptable. AFC and the protections suggested by the FCC will not ameliorate or mitigate the likelihood of interference because of the unique nature of the network and the performance of spectrum in a point-to-point system over the water. Moreover, the interference will be concentrated in the main lobe of each antenna along each link.

RigNet concurs with the technical analysis and conclusions of the Fixed Wireless Communications Coalition (FWCC) in that the premise that expanded unlicensed use in the Fixed Service bands would not cause interference is incorrect and without factual basis.³ Additionally, indoor restrictions and other mitigations will still cause unacceptable interference, especially at sea and for networks that require high reliability.⁴

The potential for life-threatening interference is easily remedied by excluding the Gulf of Mexico from any rulemaking expanding the unlicensed use of 6 GHz and providing a 35-mile exclusion zone around any network links within 12 miles of the coast.

³ Fixed Wireless Communications Coalition Ex Parte, October 2, 2018.

⁴ Id.

IV. Conclusion

Based on the calculations here discussed, a 6 GHz interfering transmitter would have a negative impact on RigNet's licensed 6 GHz links, even at 30 miles away. As such, RigNet urges the Commission to exclude the Gulf of Mexico from any rulemaking that would allow unlicensed 6 GHz devices. For the area within 12 miles of the coast, RigNet urges the Commission to prohibit any 6 GHz unlicensed transmitters within a 35-mile radius of any 6 GHz licensed link.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's Rules, this letter is being filed electronically via the Electronic Comment Filing System in the above-referenced proceedings.

Respectfully submitted,

RIGNET SATCOM, INC.

Raul Magallanes, Assoc. General Counsel

Brad Eastman, General Counsel

James Arden Barnett, Jr, RDML USN (Ret) Senior Vice President, Government Services

Exhibit A - RigNet WiMax Access Network

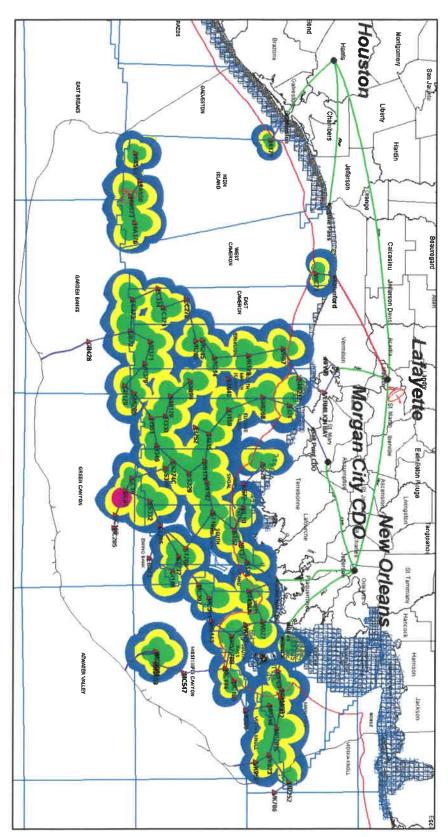


Exhibit B – Link Budgets

ST100-ST52A Path Before Interference



	ST100	ST52A		
Latitude	28 40 24.80 N	28 52 03.80 N		
Longitude	090 40 48.80 W	090 29 25.30 W		
True azimuth (°)	40.70	220.79		
Vertical angle (°)	-0.10	-0.10		
Elevation (ft)	0.00	0.00		
Antenna model	DA8-59A(P) (TR)	PL8-59 (TR)		
Antenna gain (dBi)	41.60	41.60		
Antenna height (ft)	95.00	94.00		
TX line model	EWP52	EWP52		
TX line unit loss (dB/100 ft)	1.16	1.16		
TX line length (ft)	100.00	100.00		
TX line loss (dB)	1.16	1.16		
Connector loss (dB)	0.25	0.25		
Antenna model	DA6-59A(p) (DR)	DA6-59A(p) (DR)		
Antenna gain (dBi)	39.00	39.00		
Antenna height (ft)	53.00	72.00		
TX line model	EWP52	EWP52		
TX line unit loss (dB/100 ft)	1.16	1.16		
TX line length (ft)	235.00	150.00		
TX line loss (dB)	2.72	1.74		
Connector loss (dB)	0.25	0.25		
Frequency (MHz)	620	4.00		
Polarization	Horiz	ontal		
Path length (mi)	17.	.65		
Free space loss (dB)	137	7.39		
Main net path loss (dB)	59.85	59.85		
Diversity net path loss (dB)	64.01	62.43		
Radio model	95MPR61-L1024A60-452	95MPR61-L1024A60-452		
Emission designator	60M0D7W	60M0D7W		
TX channel assignments	6330.665H	6078.625H		
Maximum receive signal (dBm)	-22.00	-22.00		
SD improvement factor	20.59	8.17		



	TX p		RX threshold level (dBm)		EIRP (dBm)		Receive signal (dBm)		Thermal fade margin (dB)		Flat fade margin - multipath (dB)	
1024 452	31.50	31.50	-59.00	-59.00	71.69	71.09	-28.35	-28.35	30.65	30.65	30.65	30.65
512 411	31.50	31.50	-62.50	-62.50	71.69	71.09	-28.35	-28.35	34.15	34.15	34.15	34.15
256 363	32.50	32.50	-65.50	-65.50	72.69	72.09	-27.35	-27.35	38.15	38.15	38.15	38.15
128 318	32.50	32.50	-68.50	-68.50	72.69	72.09	-27.35	-27.35	41.15	41.15	41.15	41.15
64 267	32.50	32.50	-71.25	-71.25	72.69	72.09	-27.35	-27.35	43.90	43.90	43.90	43.90
32 207	32.50	32.50	-74.25	-74.25	72.69	72.09	-27.35	-27.35	46.90	46.90	46.90	46.90
16 167	32.50	32.50	-77.50	-77.50	72.69	72.09	-27.35	-27.35	50.15	50.15	50.15	50.15
4 84	32.50	32.50	-88.00	-88.00	72.69	72.09	-27.35	-27.35	60.65	60.65	60.65	60.65

	Worst month multipath		Annual multipath		Annual rain	Total annual (2 way)	Time in mode (2 way)
1024 452	99.9977	99.9942	99.9992	99.9980		99.9972	99.9972
512 411	99.9995	99.9988	99.9998	99.9996		99.9994	0.0023
256 363	99.9999	99.9998	99.9999	99.9999		99.9999	0.0005
128 318	99.9999	99.9999	99.9999	99.9999		99.9999	0.0001
64 267	99.9999	99.9999	99.9999	99.9999		99.9999	0.0000
32 207	99.9999	99.9999	99.9999	99.9999		99.9999	0.0000
16 167	99.9999	99.9999	99.9999	99.9999		99.9999	0.0000
4 84	99.9999	99.9999	99.9999	99.9999		99.9999	0.0000



	ST100	ST52A
Latitude	28 40 24.80 N	28 52 03.80 N
Longitude	090 40 48.80 W	090 29 25.30 W
True azimuth (°)	40.70	220.79
Vertical angle (°)	-0.10	-0.10
Elevation (ft)	0.00	0.00
Antenna model	DA8-59A(P) (TR)	PL8-59 (TR)
Antenna gain (dBi)	41.60	41.60
Antenna height (ft)	95.00	94.00
TX line model	EWP52	EWP52
TX line unit loss (dB/100 ft)	1.16	1.16
TX line length (ft)	100.00	100.00
TX line loss (dB)	1.16	1.16
Connector loss (dB)	0.25	0.25
Antenna model	DA6-59A(p) (DR)	DA6-59A(p) (DR)
Antenna gain (dBi)	39.00	39.00
Antenna height (ft)	53.00	72.00
TX line model	EWP52	EWP52
TX line unit loss (dB/100 ft)	1.16	1.16
TX line length (ft)	235.00	150.00
TX line loss (dB)	2.72	1.74
Connector loss (dB)	0.25	0.25
Frequency (MHz)	620	4.00
Polarization	Horiz	ontal
Path length (mi)	17.	65
Free space loss (dB)	137	.39
Main net path loss (dB)	59.85	59.85
Diversity net path loss (dB)	64.01	62.43
Radio model	95MPR61-L1024A60-452	95MPR61-L1024A60-452
Emission designator	60M0D7W	60M0D7W
TX channel assignments	6330.665H	6078.625H
Maximum receive signal (dBm)	-22.00	-22.00
SD improvement factor	1.00	8.17



	TX p		RX threshold level (dBm)		EIRP (dBm)		Receive signal (dBm)		Thermal fade margin (dB)		Flat fade margin - multipath (dB)	
1024 452	31.50	31.50	-59.00	-59.00	71.69	71.09	-28.35	-28.35	30.65	30.65	4.13	30.65
512 411	31.50	31.50	-62.50	-62.50	71.69	71.09	-28.35	-28.35	34.15	34.15	7.63	34.15
256 363	32.50	32.50	-65.50	-65.50	72.69	72.09	-27.35	-27.35	38.15	38.15	11.63	38.15
128 318	32.50	32.50	-68.50	-68.50	72.69	72.09	-27.35	-27.35	41.15	41.15	14.63	41.15
64 267	32.50	32.50	-71.25	-71.25	72.69	72.09	-27.35	-27.35	43.90	43.90	17.38	43.90
32 207	32.50	32.50	-74.25	-74.25	72.69	72.09	-27.35	-27.35	46.90	46.90	20.38	46.90
16 167	32.50	32.50	-77.50	-77.50	72.69	72.09	-27.35	-27.35	50.15	50.15	23.63	50.15
4 84	32.50	32.50	-88.00	-88.00	72.69	72.09	-27.35	-27.35	60.65	60.65	34.13	60.65

	Worst month multipath		Annual multipath		Annual rain		Total annual (2 way)	Time in mode (2 way)
1024 452	80.2111	99.9942	93.0739	99.9980			93.0719	93.0719
512 411	91.1606	99.9988	96.9062	99.9996			96.9058	3.8340
256 363	96.4810	99.9998	98.7683	99.9999			98.7683	1.8625
128 318	98.2363	99.9999	99.3827	99.9999			99.3827	0.6144
64 267	99.0637	99.9999	99.6723	99.9999			99.6723	0.2896
32 207	99.7414	99.9999	99.9095	99.9999			99.9095	0.2372
16 167	99.9421	99.9999	99.9797	99.9999			99.9797	0.0703
4 84	99.9995	99.9999	99.9998	99.9999			99.9998	0.0201

Interferig Transmitter at 10 miles from ST100 (Victim Receiver)



	ST400	OT FOA		
1 426 2	ST100	ST 52A		
Latitude	28 40 24.80 N	28 52 03.80 N		
Longitude	090 40 48.80 W	090 29 25.30 W		
True azimuth (°)	40.70	220.79		
Vertical angle (°)	-0.10	-0.10		
Elevation (ft)	0.00	0.00		
Antenna model	DA8-59A(P) (TR)	PL8-59 (TR)		
Antenna gain (dBi)	41.60	41.60		
Antenna height (ft)	95.00	94.00		
TX line model	EWP52	EWP52		
TX line unit loss (dB/100 ft)	1.16	1.16		
TX line length (ft)	100.00	100.00		
TX line loss (dB)	1.16	1.16		
Connector loss (dB)	0.25	0.25		
Antenna model	DA6-59A(p) (DR)	DA6-59A(p) (DR)		
Antenna gain (dBi)	39.00	39.00		
Antenna height (ft)	53.00	72.00		
TX line model	EWP52	EWP52		
TX line unit loss (dB/100 ft)	1.16	1.16		
TX line length (ft)	235.00	150.00		
TX line loss (dB)	2.72	1.74		
Connector loss (dB)	0.25	0.25		
Frequency (MHz)	620	4.00		
Polarization	Horiz	ontal		
Path length (mi)	17.	.65		
Free space loss (dB)	137	'.39		
Main net path loss (dB)	59.85	59.85		
Diversity net path loss (dB)	64.01	62.43		
Radio model	95MPR61-L1024A60-452	95MPR61-L1024A60-452		
Emission designator	60M0D7W	60M0D7W		
TX channel assignments	6330.665H	6078.625H		
Maximum receive signal (dBm)	-22.00	-22.00		
SD improvement factor	1.00	8.17		



	TX po		RX threshold level (dBm)		EIRP (dBm)		Receive signal (dBm)		Thermal fade margin (dB)		Flat fade margin - multipath (dB)	
1024 452	31.50	31.50	-59.00	-59.00	71.69	71.09	-28.35	-28.35	30.65	30.65	12.21	30.65
512 411	31.50	31.50	-62.50	-62.50	71.69	71.09	-28.35	-28.35	34.15	34.15	15.71	34.15
256 363	32.50	32.50	-65.50	-65.50	72.69	72.09	-27.35	-27.35	38.15	38.15	19.71	38.15
128 318	32.50	32.50	-68.50	-68.50	72.69	72.09	-27.35	-27.35	4 1.15	41.15	22.71	41.15
64 267	32.50	32.50	-71.25	-71.25	72.69	72.09	-27.35	-27.35	43.90	43.90	25.46	43.90
32 207	32.50	32.50	-74.25	-74.25	72.69	72.09	-27.35	-27.35	46.90	46.90	28.46	46.90
16 167	32.50	32.50	-77.50	-77.50	72.69	72.09	-27.35	-27.35	50.15	50.15	31.71	50.15
4 84	32.50	32.50	-88.00	-88.00	72.69	72.09	-27.35	-27.35	60.65	60.65	42.21	60.65

	Worst month multipath		Annual multipath		Annual rain	Total annual (2 way)	Time in mode (2 way)
1024 452	96.9215	99.9942	98.9225	99.9980		98.9205	98.9205
512 411	98.6249	99.9988	99.5187	99.9996		99.5183	0.5978
256 363	99.6480	99.9998	99.8768	99.9999		99.8767	0.3584
128 318	99.9116	99.9999	99.9691	99.9999		99.9690	0.0923
64 267	99.9751	99.9999	99.9913	99.9999		99.9913	0.0222
32 207	99.9937	99.9999	99.9978	99.9999		99.9978	0.0065
16 167	99.9986	99.9999	99.9995	99.9999		99.9995	0.0017
4 84	99.9999	99.9999	99.9999	99.9999		99.9999	0.0005



	ST100	ST52A
Latitude	28 40 24.80 N	28 52 03.80 N
Longitude	090 40 48.80 W	090 29 25.30 W
True azimuth (°)	40.70	220.79
Vertical angle (°)	-0.10	-0.10
Elevation (ft)	0.00	0.00
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TX line unit loss (dB/100 ft)	1.16	1.16
TX line length (ft)	100.00	100.00
TX line loss (dB)	1.16	1.16
Connector loss (dB)	0.25	0.25
Antenna model	DA6-59A(p) (DR)	DA6-59A(p) (DR)
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TX line loss (dB)	2.72	1.74
Connector loss (dB)	0.25	0.25
Frequency (MHz)	620	4.00
Polarization	Horiz	ontal
Path length (mi)	17	.65
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Emission designator	60M0D7W	60M0D7W
TX channel assignments	6330.665H	6078.625H
Maximum receive signal (dBm)	-22.00	-22.00
SD improvement factor	9.42	8.17



	TX po (dB		RX threshold level (dBm)		EIRP (dBm)		Receive signal (dBm)		Thermal fade margin (dB)		Flat fade margin - multipath (dB)	
1024 452	31.50	31.50	-59.00	-59.00	71.69	71.09	-28.35	-28.35	30.65	30.65	27.39	30.65
512 411	31.50	31.50	-62.50	-62.50	71.69	71.09	-28.35	-28.35	34.15	34.15	30.89	34.15
256 363	32.50	32.50	-65.50	-65.50	72.69	72.09	-27.35	-27.35	38.15	38.15	34.89	38.15
128 318	32.50	32.50	-68.50	-68.50	72.69	72.09	-27.35	-27.35	41.15	41.15	37.89	41.15
64 267	32.50	32.50	-71.25	-71.25	72.69	72.09	-27.35	-27.35	43.90	43.90	40.64	43.90
32 207	32.50	32.50	-74.25	-74.25	72.69	72.09	-27.35	-27.35	46.90	46.90	43.64	46.90
16 167	32.50	32.50	-77.50	-77.50	72.69	72.09	-27.35	-27.35	50.15	50.15	46.89	50.15
4 84	32.50	32.50	-88.00	-88.00	72.69	72.09	-27.35	-27.35	60.65	60.65	57.39	60.65

	Worst month multipath		Annual multipath		Annual rain		Total annual (2 way)	Time in mode (2 way)
1024 452	99.9898	99.9942	99.9964	99.9980			99.9944	99.9944
512 411	99.9979	99.9988	99.9993	99.9996			99.9989	0.0045
256 363	99.9997	99.9998	99.9999	99.9999			99.9998	0.0009
128 318	99.9999	99.9999	99.9999	99.9999			99.9999	0.0001
64 267	99.9999	99.9999	99.9999	99.9999			99.9999	0.0000
32 207	99.9999	99.9999	99.9999	99.9999			99.9999	0.0000
16 167	99.9999	99.9999	99.9999	99.9999			99.9999	0.0000
4 84	99.9999	99.9999	99.9999	99.9999			99.9999	0.0000